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## Opposition grows to Mr Ford's choice for CIA directorship

From Patrick Brogan  
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The appropriate Senate committees will in a few days begin to consider the qualifications of Mr Donald Rumsfeld to be Secretary of Defence and Mr George Bush as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Later they will once again examine Mr Elliot Richardson, who is seeking confirmation as Secretary of Commerce.

Mr Richardson is confirmed in a new post by the Senate once a year, and should have no trouble. Neither should Mr Rumsfeld. Mr Bush is a different matter.

President Ford has a habit of rewarding his less successful friends with posts for which they are not necessarily well qualified. Many people feel that a post as important and sensitive as the directorship of the CIA requires someone less partial than a minor Republican politician. It also is thought that there will be too many lame ducks in the Administration.

Mr Ford works on the assumption that he has another five years of office ahead of him, but his belief is not widely shared. Mr Rumsfeld can hardly be expected to make a competent Secretary of Defence in much less than the next six months.

The Pentagon's budget and plans for 1977 are well advanced. Therefore, simple

arithmetic shows that Mr Rumsfeld cannot hope to have much influence on defence policy unless Mr Ford wins the election. It is possible that the President might choose either Mr Rumsfeld or Mr Richardson as his vice-presidential running mate next August, and choose a fifth Defence Secretary since 1969 or a sixth Commerce Secretary as replacement.

The Department of Commerce could doubtless get on perfectly well without a secretary, but even the possibility of an effective interregnum of more than a year at the Pentagon causes considerable dismay.

The President hopes that the furor of the reshuffle will die down, as did that over his pardon of Mr Nixon, and that the long-term advantages will outweigh the short-term damage. It has not worked yet.

A subcommittee of the House of Representatives has voted to cite Mr Rogers Morton, the Secretary of Commerce, for contempt of Congress. He has refused to obey a subpoena from the subcommittee to supply it with a list of all American companies which have been approached by Arab countries to take part in the boycott of Israel.

Mr Morton refuses to give information to Congress because, he says, it would violate companies' rights to confidentiality. Taking part in the boycott is not itself illegal.